

Knox Defends the Right of
Resistance. 439

that I my selff was the malefactor, and the scheddar of the bloode. I eschame not, Madam, further to affirme that God so blissed my walk labouris, that in Berwick (whair commonlie before thair used to be slauchter, be ressonne of quarrellis that used to aryse amongis soldartis) thair was as great quyetnes, all the tyme that I remained thair, as thair is this day in Edinburgh."

For Mary, however, the religion of the prince is the only legitimate religion, and to teach or profess any other is necessarily seditious. Both these assumptions her opponent strenuously disallows. Religion derives neither its origin nor its authority from the prince, but from the eternal God alone, and subjects are not bound to shape their creed according to the appetites of their princes. If so, what right had the Jews or the early Christians to refuse to worship the gods of Egypt or Rome ? Nay, not only may subjects dissent from the creed of the prince, but they may resent his tyrannic commands. But, objected the queen, neither the Jews in Egypt nor the Christians in pagan Rome raised the sword against their rulers. " Yit, Madam, ye cane not deny but that they resisted ; for thai that obey nott the commandimentis that ar gevin, in some sort resist." " But yett (said sche) thai resisted not by the sweard." " God, Madam (said he), had not given unto thame the power and the meanes." "Think ye (quod sche) that subjectis having power may resist thair Princes ?" " Yf thair princes exceed thair boundis (quod he), Madam, and do against that whairfoir they should be obeyed, it is no doubt but that thei may be resisted, even by power. For thair is neather grettar honour, nor grettar obedience to be given to kings or princes, then God hes commanded to be given unto father and mother. But so it is, Madam, that the father may be stricken with a phrensy, in the which he would slay his awin children. Now, Madam, if the children aryise, joyne thame selfis together, apprehend the father, tack the sweard or other weapoun frome him, and finallie bind his handis, and keepe him in preasone till that his phrenesy be overpast, think ye, Madam, that the children do any wrang ? Or think ye, Mada'm, that God wil be offended with thame that have stayed thair father to committ wickedness? It is even so (said he), Madam, with princes that wold murther the children